

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**SPORT, SUBSISTENCE, AND PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB
FISHERIES TO REMAIN CLOSED IN KACHEMAK BAY**

The noncommercial (subsistence, personal use, and sport) Tanner crab fisheries will remain closed in Kachemak Bay waters for the 2012–2013 season as announced on June 27. The department recently completed the Kachemak Bay Tanner crab abundance survey and the resulting estimate of 20,501 legal male Tanner crab is well below that needed to open the season. The Tanner crab harvest strategy adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2002 requires a minimum estimate of 50,000 legal size male Tanner crab in Kachemak Bay for noncommercial Tanner crab fisheries to open. The 2012 estimate is approximately half the 2011 estimate of 41,595 legal male Tanner crab. Although the legal crab estimates are very low, estimates of total male crab abundance (both legal sized and sublegal size) are highest since the current survey began in 1991 with totals of 5.0 million in 2011 and 4.8 million male crab in 2012. Primary contributors to these high estimates are prerecruit-3 and prerecruit-4 crab which are not expected to recruit to legal size for three to four years.

For additional information contact Charlie Trowbridge, Elisa Russ or Carol Kerkvliet in Homer.

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